

For immediate release  
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## **Locally produced independent film *Song on the Water* captures remarkable sea voyage by indigenous canoe**

### ***Song on the Water: The Return of the Great Canoes***

**One hour**

**Saturday, November 13, at 11:00 p.m.**

**Wednesday, November 17, at 4:00 a.m. (r)**



SEATTLE – In what has grown to become a yearly tradition, aboriginal communities in Western Washington and the coastal and inland waterways of British Columbia participate in sea voyages in ancient dugout canoes carved from cedar. During the summer of 2003, Port Angeles filmmaker Robert Lundahl participated in one such voyage, traveling to attend a potlatch hosted by the Tulalip tribe. Invited by longtime friends in Washington state's Elwha S'Klallam community, he was encouraged to witness, lend support, and record the event on film.

Working as a director/photographer alongside location sound recordist Paul Hawxhurst, Lundahl captured the unfolding story of a tribal community striving through unity, prayer, traditional practices and physical endurance to transcend stereotypes, build pride and create self-esteem in its youth.

Saturday, November 13, at 11:00 p.m., KCTS Television presents the world premiere of Lundahl's documentary, *Song on the Water*, which takes viewers along with 50 indigenous canoes, their crews and communities on a modern-day voyage to a traditional potlatch. It is a remarkable journey for all, as up to 5,000 people join together in this communal, spiritual event. Filled with beautiful photography and inspiring Coast Salish songs and cultural expressions, the one-hour film explores what the voyage means to the "pullers," ground crews and elders who share the waves, the traditions and a vision of a positive future for Coast Salish youth.

Dr. Colleen Boyd, assistant professor of anthropology at Ball State University, praises *Song on the Water* for providing "insight into the ironies of living tribally in the 21st century." Says Boyd, "It is not a simple tribute to Coast Salish peoples, pretty pictures and wise words; the film makes us think about the complexities of your subjects' lives. Having said that, it is also incredibly beautiful—the lighting, glowing faces and wonderful photography."

**Credits:** *Song on the Water: Return of the Great Canoes* is a Freshwater Bay Pictures Release presented by The Long House Association. Producer/Director/Photographer/Editor: Robert Lundahl. Location Sound: Paul Hawxhurst. Concept and Origination: Linda Wiechman, President, The Long House Association. Native Speakers and Storytellers: Johnson Charles (Lower Elwha S'Klallam), Alfred Charles Jr. (Lower Elwha S'Klallam), Daniel (Banjo) Muck (Lower Elwha S'Klallam), John Boyd (Lower Elwha S'Klallam), Amy Edenshaw (Haida), Patty Elofson (Lower Elwha S'Klallam), Sonia Elofson (Lower Elwha S'Klallam), Harry Moon (Kwakiutl), Darrell Charles (Lower Elwha

S'Klallam), Jessica Elofson (Lower Elwha S'Klallam), Chief Edgar Charlie (Haanuqui, Head Chief, Kelthsmah), Michelle Charles (Lower Elwha S'Klallam), Emmett Oliver (Quinault) and Chief Frank Nelson (Kwa-Gulth, Musgamagw Tsawataineuk). Titles and Graphics: Mark Woloschuk. Singers, Drums and Bells: Chief Frank Nelson (Kwa-Gulth, Musgamagw Tsawataineuk); Ahousaht Singers; Chief Harold Hudson (Ahousaht); Pat and Walt Bennett, Lower Elwha Indian Shaker Church; Jack Cagey and Swan Dancers (Lummi); Ray Fryberg (Tulalip); Tulalip Singers; George Jones (Port Gamble S'Klallam); S'Klallam Singers; Mowachat Singers; Suquamish Singers. Special thanks to The Canoe Nations of the Pacific Northwest.

DVDs and VHS tapes of *Song on the Water* are available for purchase through the film Web site, at [www.songonthewater.org](http://www.songonthewater.org).

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### **Resources for Press**

Still photography and VHS screeners of *Song on the Water* are available upon request from KCTS Press Relations, at 206.443.6798 or [pmallinson@kcts.org](mailto:pmallinson@kcts.org).

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### ***Song on the Water* Filmmaker Bio**

Robert Lundahl lives in Port Angeles, Washington, making documentaries for global distribution.

Born in Pasadena, California, Lundahl received his BFA from the University of Oregon (fine art/art history), and studied at the University of Southern California (cinema). While a student, Lundahl produced a short documentary titled *The Burden of Proof*, which was screened for U.S. Senate subcommittees on the environment in 1979.

Lundahl developed his skills as a location cinematographer during three years shooting nationally syndicated outdoor programs for John Fabian Productions. He also produced more than 100 public relations, consumer marketing and training programs and campaigns, and created several high-end films for the investor community. In 1989, he formed Robert Lundahl and Associates LLC, a San Francisco company creating innovative communications products and strategies.

Beginning in 1997, Lundahl moved to series production with *Digital Journey*, an award-winning series of 39 short (3:30) programs exploring the human side of technology, its cultural, environmental and social contexts. The series was filmed around the globe for broadcast on U.S. public television and Canada's TVO. Lundahl also directed and photographed key episodes including a 2001 Emmy Award-winning trilogy on "E-Commerce in China."

Lundahl also develops independent programming for television. Filmed in Washington state from 1993 to 1999, *Unconquering the Last Frontier* explores the causes and effects of the ongoing "salmon crisis" in the Pacific Northwest, focusing on the Elwha River. The film was released in 2001/2 and has been honored by film festivals around the world.

Lundahl's work has earned numerous awards, including the Emmy, the International Television Association's "Golden Vision" Award, the U.S. International Film and Video Festival's "Silver Screen" and the Telly Award. His productions have been screened at festivals including the EarthVision International Environmental Video Festival (First Place), the Columbus International Film & Video Festival (Honorable Mention), the International Wildlife Film Festival (finalist), the American Anthropological Association Film & Video Festival, Ekotopfilm (Slovakia), Hazel Wolf Environmental Film Festival, REAL2REEL Documentary Film Festival, El Festival del Riu (Spain), Great Lakes Independent Film Festival, Moab Film Festival, Anchorage Film Festival and International Film Festival of the Americas.